

### ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe and claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1-20, 22-54, and 58-65 remain in this application. Claims 21, and 55-57 have been canceled. New claims 66 and 67 have been added to add independent versions of claims 56 and 57 that were objected to by the Examiner in a previous Office action.

In the current Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 58-60, indicating that the claims would be allowable if put into independent format. These claims have been made dependent on new claim 66, which is based on claim 56 that had been previously objected to by the Examiner, but indicated as being allowable if put into independent format. Because claim 66 is effectively claim 56 in independent format, it is now allowable, and thus the objection to claims 58-60 is moot and claims 58-60 are also allowable.

The Examiner rejected claim 55 as being anticipated by Hariharan *et al.* (U.S. 4,970,703). Claim 55 has been cancelled, making the rejection moot.

Finally, new claim 67 is based on claim 57 that had been previously objected to by the Examiner, but indicated as being allowable if put into independent format. Because claim 67 is effectively claim 57 in independent format, it is now also allowable

In consideration of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner, and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone

interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Enclosed with this communication is a certified copy of the priority document for this application, European Patent Application No. 01107305.3.

A check for \$200 for two independent claims in excess of three is enclosed. If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36145.

Respectfully submitted,

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